

ONE CHURCH ONE CHILD

As of February 28, 2005 there were 632 African American children in the state of Missouri with a goal of adoption. The Missouri Legislature passed the One Church One Child Adoption and Foster Care, section 453.153. This action placed the One Church, One Child (OCOC) in statute and mandated the Director of Social Services to develop and implement a program to work through local churches to find adoptive placements for minority and hard to place children. This program shall be known as "Missouri, One Church One Child" program. This program closely models itself after the nationally recognized special recruitment program founded by Father George Clement, pastor of Holy Angels Church in Chicago. This mission is much like the National One Church One Child program to recruit appropriate African-American families for African American children available for adoption.

The One Church One Child program of Missouri offers a simple challenge to churches in the African America community. Each church is asked to recruit from its members at least one family to adopt or foster an African American child. This program also informs African-American churches and organizations about their role in ensuring permanency for African American children who are in foster care, homeless, neglected, abused and/or other kinds of life threatening situations. The church boards and CD liaisons serve as advocates for African American children and their families statewide.